



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 2008

2008-012

U.S. Agency for International Development

Strategic Development Office (503) 2501-3471

U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (503) 2501-2471

Email: kazucena@usaid.gov

<http://www.usaid.gov/sv>

<http://elsalvador.usembassy.gov/>

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WILL BE TRAINED IN MATERNAL AND NEONATAL ABILITIES

SAN SALVADOR– On June 27, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Strengthening Health and Education Program, and in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, inaugurated the Regional Maternal and Neonatal Training Centers that will benefit women and newborns in the 28 hospitals that provide maternity services in El Salvador.

An investment of approximately \$57,000 was made by USAID for the construction, setting up and equipping of the centers in the country's five regions. The centers will serve as a place to offer permanent academic training to primary health professionals—nurses, obstetricians and pediatricians selected for their best practices and professional recognition among their peers—to train other health care providers.

Obstetric and neonatal mannequins and other medical tools will be used for learning, simulating real life situations at consulting rooms for births and newborns care, while validating medical personnel's knowledge and abilities in prenatal, labor, post partum and newborns' care.

The use of these centers will have the added advantage of avoiding multiple exams of female patients—especially vaginal examination—and the simulation of normal, complicated, and emergency conditions, that require analysis and reinforcement of protocols, guidelines and work aids. Asepsis and antisepsis techniques in labor and newborn care will also be enhanced.

The centers' permanent operations in the five regions are expected to contribute to the decrease of morbidity and mortality caused by sepsis, post labor hemorrhage, neonatal asphyxia, and the improvement of medical interventions including proper dating of gestational age. In addition, the centers will benefit medical personnel through training and techniques refreshers based on evidence, which will lead to better health care for women and children.

###